

# Stable bundles on 3-fold hypersurfaces

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## **Abstract**

Using monads, we construct a large class of stable bundles of rank 2 and 3 on 3-fold hypersurfaces, and study the set of all possible Chern classes of stable vector bundles.

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## 1 Introduction

Perhaps the most popular method of constructing rank 2 bundles over a 3-dimensional projective variety  $X$  is the so-called Serre construction. Given a local complete intersection, Cohen-Macaulay curve  $C \subset X$ , let  $\mathcal{I}_C$  denote its ideal sheaf. Then consider the extension

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow E \rightarrow \mathcal{I}_C(k) \rightarrow 0 .$$

Under some conditions on  $C$ , the rank 2 sheaf  $E$  is locally-free; moreover,  $C$  is the zero-scheme of a section in  $H^0(E)$ ; see [5] for a detailed description. In some sense, every rank 2 bundle can be obtained in this way.

In this letter, we explore a different technique: monads. We were motivated by a preliminary version of a paper by Douglas, Reinbacher and Yau, who proposed, based on physical grounds, the following stronger version of the Bogomolov inequality [4, Conjecture 2.1]:

**Conjecture.** *Let  $X$  be a non-singular, simply-connected, compact Kähler manifold of dimension  $n$ , with Kähler class  $H$ . Assume that  $X$  has trivial or ample canonical bundle. If  $E$  is a  $H$ -stable holomorphic vector bundle over  $X$  of rank  $r \geq 2$ , then its Chern classes  $c_1(E)$  and  $c_2(E)$  satisfy the following inequality:*

$$\Delta(E) = \frac{1}{r^2} (2rc_2(E) - (r-1)c_1(E)^2) \cdot H^{n-2} \geq \frac{1}{12} c_2(TX) \cdot H^{n-2} \quad (1)$$

We show that this conjecture cannot be true by providing examples of stable bundles of rank 2 and 3 that do not satisfy (1) on hypersurfaces of degree 4, 5 and 6 within  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . These counter-examples are obtained as special cases of a more general construction of stable rank 2 and 3 bundles over 3-fold hypersurfaces, see Theorem 2 below.

This conjecture was withdrawn in a revised version of the preprint, and the counter-examples here presented do not bear directly on the truth or falsity of the other conjectures in the revised version of [4]. These interesting conjectures, which provide sufficient conditions for the existence of stable bundles with given Chern classes, still stand.

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## 2 Hypersurfaces and monads on hypersurfaces

Let us begin by recalling some standard facts about hypersurfaces within complex projective spaces.

A hypersurface  $X_{(d,n)} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$  ( $n \geq 4$ ) of degree  $d \geq 1$  is the zero locus of a section  $\sigma \in H^0(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(d))$ ; for generic  $\sigma$ , its zero locus is non-singular. It follows from the Lefschetz hyperplane theorem that every hypersurface is simply-connected and has cyclic Picard group [2]. It is also easy to see that hypersurfaces are arithmetically Cohen-Macaulay, that is  $H^p(\mathcal{O}_{X_{(d,n)}}(k)) = 0$  for  $1 \leq p \leq n-1$  and all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Finally, the restriction of the Kähler  $\tilde{H}$  class of  $\mathbb{P}^n$  induces a Kähler class  $H$  on  $X_{(d,n)}$ , which is the ample generator of  $\text{Pic}(X_{(d,n)})$ . One can show that:

$$c_1(TX_{(d,n)}) = (n+1-d) \cdot H \quad \text{and}$$

$$c_2(TX_{(d,n)}) = \left( d^2 - (n+1)d + \frac{1}{2}n(n+1) \right) \cdot H^2 . \quad (2)$$

In summary, hypersurfaces within  $\mathbb{P}^n$  with  $n \geq 4$  (and in fact any complete intersection variety of dimension at least 3) do satisfy all the conditions in the Conjecture.

Fixed an ample invertible sheaf  $\mathcal{L}$  with  $c_1(\mathcal{L}) = H$  on a projective variety  $V$  of dimension  $n$ , recall that the slope  $\mu(E)$  with respect to  $\mathcal{L}$  of a torsion-free sheaf  $E$  on  $X_{(d,n)}$  is defined as follows:

$$\mu(E) := \frac{c_1(E) \cdot H^{n-1}}{rk(E)} .$$

We say that  $E$  is stable with respect to  $\mathcal{L}$  if for every coherent subsheaf  $0 \neq F \hookrightarrow E$  with  $0 < rk(F) < rk(E)$  we have  $\mu(F) < \mu(E)$ . In the case at hand, stability will always be measured in relation to the line bundle  $\mathcal{O}_X(1)$  on the hypersurface  $X_{(d,n)}$ , whose first Chern class, denoted by  $H$ , is the ample generator of  $\text{Pic}(X_{(d,n)})$ .

A *linear monad* on  $X_{(d,n)}$  is a complex of holomorphic bundles of the form:

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X(-1)^{\oplus a} \xrightarrow{\alpha} \mathcal{O}_X^{\oplus b} \xrightarrow{\beta} \mathcal{O}_X(1)^{\oplus c} \rightarrow 0 , \quad (3)$$

which is exact on the first and last terms. In other words,  $\alpha$  is injective and  $\beta$  is surjective as bundle maps, and  $\beta\alpha = 0$ . The holomorphic bundle  $E = \ker \beta / \text{Im } \alpha$  is called the cohomology of the monad. Note that

$$\text{ch}(E) = b - a \cdot \text{ch}(\mathcal{O}_X(-1)) - c \cdot \text{ch}(\mathcal{O}_X(1)) .$$

In particular,

$$\text{rk}(E) = b - a - c , \quad c_1(E) = (a - c) \cdot H \quad \text{and} \quad c_2(E) = \frac{1}{2}(a^2 - 2ac + c^2 + a + c) \cdot H^2 , \quad (4)$$

where in this case  $H = c_1(\mathcal{O}_X(1))$ . The left hand side of (1) is given by:

$$\Delta(E) = \frac{1}{r^2} (2rc_2(E) - (r-1)c_1(E)^2) \cdot H^{n-2} = \frac{b(a+c) - 4ac}{(b-a-c)^2} . \quad (5)$$

We will also be interested in the kernel bundle  $K = \ker \beta$ ; it has the following topological invariants:

$$\text{rk}(K) = b - c , \quad c_1(K) = -c \cdot H \quad \text{and} \quad c_2(K) = \frac{1}{2}(c^2 + c) \cdot H^2 . \quad (6)$$

The left hand side of (1) is given by:

$$\Delta(K) = \frac{1}{r^2} (2rc_2(K) - (r-1)c_1(K)^2) \cdot H^{n-2} = \frac{bc}{(b-c)^2} . \quad (7)$$

More on linear monads and their cohomology bundles can be found at [1, 7, 8, 9] and the references therein. Let us just mention a very useful existence theorem due to Fløystad in the case of projective spaces, but easily generalizable to hypersurfaces. Below, Fløystad's original result [3, Main Theorem] is adapted to fit our needs; the proof will not be given here, since we explicitly establish the existence of the linear monads used in this letter.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $X_{(d,n)}$  be a non-singular hypersurface of degree  $d$  within  $\mathbb{P}^n$ ,  $n \geq 4$ . There exists a linear monad on  $X$  as in (3) if and only if*

- $b \geq a + c + n - 2$ , if  $n$  is odd;
- $b \geq a + c + n - 1$ , if  $n$  is even

Our counter-examples to Conjecture 1 will be constructed as kernel and cohomologies of linear monads over hypersurfaces. In order to establish their stability, we will need the following result:

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $V$  be a 3-dimensional non-singular projective variety with  $\text{Pic}(V) = \mathbb{Z}$ , and consider the following linear monad:*

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_V(-1)^{\oplus c} \xrightarrow{\alpha} \mathcal{O}_V^{\oplus 2+2c} \xrightarrow{\beta} \mathcal{O}_V(1)^{\oplus c} \rightarrow 0 \quad (c \geq 1) \quad (8)$$

1. the kernel  $K = \ker \beta$  is a stable rank  $2 + c$  bundle with  $c_1(K) = -c$  and  $c_2(K) = \frac{1}{2}(c^2 + c)$ ;
2. the cohomology  $E = \ker \beta/\text{Im} \alpha$  is a stable rank 2 bundle with  $c_1(E) = 0$  and  $c_2(E) = c$ .

In Section 3 below we present our counter-examples, which arise as are special cases of Theorem 2. The existence of monads of the form (8) above for  $V$  being a 3-fold hypersurface is explicitly established in Section 4. The proof of Theorem 2 is left to Section 5.

### 3 Counter-examples

Following the notation in the previous section, set  $X = X_{(d,4)}$  and let  $\{\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3, \sigma_4\}$  be a basis of  $H^0(\mathcal{O}_X(1))$ . Consider the following linear monad on :

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X(-1) \xrightarrow{\alpha} \mathcal{O}_X^{\oplus 4} \xrightarrow{\beta} \mathcal{O}_X(1) \rightarrow 0 \quad (9)$$

with maps given by:

$$\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1 \\ \sigma_2 \\ \sigma_3 \\ \sigma_4 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \beta = \begin{pmatrix} & & & \\ -\sigma_2 & \sigma_1 & -\sigma_4 & \sigma_3 \end{pmatrix} .$$

It is easy to see that (9) is indeed a linear monad. We will show that for  $d = 4, 5, 6$ , either its kernel bundle or its cohomology bundle will provide counter-examples to Conjecture 1.

#### 3.1 Sextic within $\mathbb{P}^4$

Let  $X = X_{(6,4)}$  be a degree 6 hypersurface within  $\mathbb{P}^4$ ; notice that  $\omega_X = \mathcal{O}_X(1)$ , so that  $X$  has ample canonical bundle. One easily computes that  $c_2(X) = 16 \cdot H^2$ .

By Theorem 2, the cohomology of the monad (9) is a stable rank 2 bundle with  $c_1 = 0$  and  $c_2 = 1$ . One has that

$$\Delta(E) = \frac{1}{r^2} (2rc_2(E) - (r-1)c_1(E)^2) \cdot H = H^3$$

while

$$\frac{1}{12}c_2(TX) \cdot H = \frac{4}{3} \cdot H^3 .$$

Therefore, the strong Bogomolov inequality (1) is not satisfied.

### 3.2 Quartic within $\mathbb{P}^4$

Let  $X = X_{(4,4)}$  be a degree 4 hypersurface within  $\mathbb{P}^4$ ; notice that  $\omega_X = \mathcal{O}_X(-1)$ , so that  $X$  has ample anti-canonical bundle. One easily computes that  $c_2(X) = 6 \cdot H^2$ .

By Theorem 2, the kernel bundle of the monad (9) is a stable rank 3 bundle with  $c_1 = -1$  and  $c_2 = 1$ . One has that

$$\Delta(K) = \frac{1}{r^2} (2rc_2(K) - (r-1)c_1(K)^2) \cdot H = \frac{4}{9} \cdot H^3$$

while

$$\frac{r^2}{12} c_2(TX) \cdot H = \frac{1}{2} \cdot H^3 .$$

Therefore, the strong Bogomolov inequality (1) is not satisfied.

### 3.3 Quintic within $\mathbb{P}^4$

Let  $X = X_{(5,4)}$  be a degree 5 hypersurface within  $\mathbb{P}^4$ ; notice that  $\omega_X = \mathcal{O}_X$ , so that  $X$  has trivial canonical bundle. One easily computes that  $c_2(X) = 10 \cdot H^2$ .

By Theorem 2, the kernel bundle of the monad (9) is a stable rank 3 bundle with  $c_1 = -1$  and  $c_2 = 1$ . One has that

$$\Delta(K) = \frac{1}{r^2} (2rc_2(K) - (r-1)c_1(K)^2) \cdot H = \frac{4}{9} \cdot H^3$$

while

$$\frac{r^2}{12} c_2(TX) \cdot H = \frac{5}{6} \cdot H^3 .$$

Therefore, the strong Bogomolov inequality (1) is not satisfied.

### 3.4 Is it possible to strengthen the Bogomolov inequality?

It is actually impossible to have an inequality of the form

$$\Delta(E) = \frac{1}{r^2} (2rc_2(E) - (r-1)c_1(E)^2) \cdot H^{n-2} \geq \kappa c_2(TX) \cdot H^{n-2} \quad (10)$$

where  $E$  is a stable bundle and  $\kappa$  some constant, if the underlying variety is allowed to be too general.

Indeed, as it follows from Theorem 2 and the construction of Section 4, given a 3-fold hypersurface  $X = X_{(d,4)}$ , one can always find, for each  $c \geq 1$ , a stable rank  $2+c$  bundle  $K \rightarrow X$  with  $c_1(K) = -c$  and  $c_2(K) = (c^2 + c)/2$ , so that:

$$\Delta(K) = \frac{(2+2c)c}{(2+c)^2} .$$

Notice that the minimum value for  $\Delta(K)$  is  $4/9$ , which occurs exactly for  $c = 1$ . On the other hand, by formula (2), the right hand side of (10) grows quadratically with the degree  $d$ .

Therefore in order for an inequality of the form (10) to hold one must somehow restrict the type of varieties allowed, e.g. one could take only Fano and/or Calabi-Yau varieties.

### 3.5 Chern classes of stable rank 2 bundles on 3-fold hypersurfaces

The characterization of all possible cohomology classes that arise as Chern classes of stable bundles on a given Kähler manifold is not only of mathematical interest, but it is also relevant from the point of view of physics: it amounts to describing the set of all possible charges of BPS particles in type IIA superstring theory.

The integral cohomology ring of a 3-fold hypersurface  $X = X_{(d,4)}$  is simple to describe:

$$H^*(X, \mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}[H, L, T]/(L^2 = T^2 = 0, H^2 = dL, HL = T) .$$

Notice that  $H^3 = dT$  and  $H^4 = 0$ . Clearly,  $H$  is the generator of  $H^2(X, \mathbb{Z})$ ,  $L$  is the generator of  $H^4(X, \mathbb{Z})$  and  $T$  is the generator of  $H^6(X, \mathbb{Z})$ .

Now let  $E$  be a rank  $r$  bundle on  $X$ . Recall that for any rank  $r$  bundle  $E$  on a variety  $X$  with cyclic Picard group, there is a uniquely determined integer  $k_E$  such that  $-r + 1 \leq c_1(E(k_E)) \leq 0$ ; the twisted bundle  $E_{\text{norm}} = E(k_E)$  is called the *normalization* of  $E$ . Therefore it is enough to consider the case when  $c_1(E) = k \cdot H$  for  $-r + 1 \leq k \leq 0$ , and study the sets  $S_{(r,k)}(X)$  consisting of all integers  $\gamma \in \mathbb{Z}$  for which there exists a stable rank  $r$  bundle  $E$  with  $c_1(E) = k \cdot H$  and  $c_2(E) = \gamma \cdot L$ .

In the simplest possible case, provided by  $d = 1$  (so that  $X = \mathbb{P}^3$ ) and  $r = 2$ , this problem was completely solved by Hartshorne in [5]. He proved that  $S_{(2,0)}(\mathbb{P}^3)$  consists of all positive integers, while  $S_{(2,-1)}(\mathbb{P}^3)$  consists of all positive even integers. As far as it is known to the author, Hartshorne's result has not been generalized for other 3-folds.

As a consequence of Theorem 2, we have:

**Lemma 3.** *For every positive integer  $c \geq 1$ ,  $cd \in S_{(2,0)}(X_{(d,4)})$ .*

Based on Hartshorne's result mentioned above, it seems reasonable to conjecture that  $S_{(2,0)}(X_{(d,4)})$  consists exactly of all positive multiples of  $d$ .

The monad construction does not yield stable rank 2 bundles with odd first Chern class; to construct those, one needs a variation of the Serre construction, which provides a 1-1 correspondence between rank 2 bundles and codimension 2 subvarieties on  $\mathbb{P}^3$ ; see Hartshorne's paper [5].

## 4 Existence of linear monads on 3-fold hypersurfaces

Let  $X = X_{(d,4)}$  be a hypersurface of degree  $d$  within  $\mathbb{P}^4$ ; as above let  $\{\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3, \sigma_4\}$  be a basis of  $H^0(\mathcal{O}_X(1))$ . We will now explicitly establish the existence of linear monads of the form

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X(-1)^{\oplus c} \xrightarrow{\alpha} \mathcal{O}_V^{\oplus 2+2c} \xrightarrow{\beta} \mathcal{O}_X(1)^{\oplus c} \rightarrow 0 \quad (c \geq 1) .$$

Consider the  $c \times (c + 1)$  matrices:

$$B_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1 & \sigma_2 & & \\ & \sigma_1 & \sigma_2 & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots \\ & & & \sigma_1 & \sigma_2 \end{pmatrix} \quad B_2 = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_3 & \sigma_4 & & \\ & \sigma_3 & \sigma_4 & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots \\ & & & \sigma_3 & \sigma_4 \end{pmatrix},$$

and the  $(c + 1) \times c$  matrices:

$$A_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_2 & & & \\ \sigma_1 & \sigma_2 & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & \sigma_1 & \sigma_2 \\ & & & \sigma_1 \end{pmatrix} \quad A_2 = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_4 & & & \\ \sigma_3 & \sigma_4 & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & \sigma_3 & \sigma_4 \\ & & & \sigma_3 \end{pmatrix},$$

Notice that all four matrices have maximal rank  $c$ . It is easy to check that:

$$B_1 A_2 = B_2 A_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \phi_1 & \phi_2 & & & \\ \phi_0 & \phi_1 & \phi_2 & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & & \phi_0 & \phi_1 \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $\phi_0 = \sigma_1 \sigma_3$ ,  $\phi_1 = \sigma_1 \sigma_4 + \sigma_2 \sigma_3$  and  $\phi_2 = \sigma_2 \sigma_4$ .

Now form the linear monad:

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X(-1)^{\oplus c} \xrightarrow{\alpha} \mathcal{O}_X^{\oplus 2+2c} \xrightarrow{\beta} \mathcal{O}_X(1)^{\oplus c} \rightarrow 0$$

where the maps  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are given by:

$$\beta = \begin{pmatrix} B_1 \\ B_2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha = \begin{pmatrix} A_2 \\ -A_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Clearly, both maps are of maximal rank  $c$  for every point in  $X$ , and  $\beta \alpha = B_1 A_2 - B_2 A_1 = 0$ .

## 5 Proof of Theorem 2

The proof is based on a very useful criterion (due to Hoppe) to decide whether a bundle on a variety with cyclic Picard group is stable. We set  $E_{\text{norm}} := E(k_E)$  and we call  $E$  normalized if  $E = E_{\text{norm}}$ . We then have the following criterion.

**Proposition 4.** ([6, Lemma 2.6]) *Let  $E$  be a rank  $r$  holomorphic vector bundle on a variety  $X$  with  $\text{Pic}(X) = \mathbb{Z}$ . If  $H^0((\wedge^q E)_{\text{norm}}) = 0$  for  $1 \leq q \leq r - 1$ , then  $E$  is stable.*

Our argument follows [1, Theorem 2.8]. Consider the linear monad

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X(-1)^{\oplus c} \xrightarrow{\alpha} \mathcal{O}_X^{\oplus 2+2c} \xrightarrow{\beta} \mathcal{O}_X(1)^{\oplus c} \rightarrow 0 ;$$

setting  $K = \ker \beta$ ; one has the sequences:

$$0 \rightarrow K \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X^{\oplus 2+2c} \xrightarrow{\beta} \mathcal{O}_X(1)^{\oplus c} \rightarrow 0 \text{ and} \quad (11)$$

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X(-1)^{\oplus c} \xrightarrow{\alpha} K \rightarrow E \rightarrow 0 . \quad (12)$$

First, we will show that the kernel bundle  $K$  is stable. That implies that  $K$  is simple, which in turn implies that cohomology bundle  $E$  is simple. Since any simple rank 2 bundle is stable, we conclude that  $E$  is also stable.

Recall that one can associate to the short exact sequence of locally-free sheaves  $0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$  two long exact sequences of symmetric and exterior powers:

$$0 \rightarrow \wedge^q A \rightarrow \wedge^q B \rightarrow \wedge^{q-1} A \otimes C \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow B \otimes S^{q-1} C \rightarrow S^q C \rightarrow 0 \quad (13)$$

$$0 \rightarrow S^q A \rightarrow S^{q-1} A \otimes B \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow A \otimes \wedge^{q-1} B \rightarrow \wedge^q B \rightarrow \wedge^q C \rightarrow 0 \quad (14)$$

In what follows,  $\mu(F) = c_1(F)/\text{rk}(F)$  is the slope of the sheaf  $F$ , as usual.

Finally, notice that  $H^p(\mathcal{O}_X(k)) = 0$  for  $p \geq 2$  and  $k \geq -1$ , by the Kodaira vanishing theorem.

**Claim.**  $K$  is stable.

From the sequence dual to sequence (11), we get that:

$$\mu(K^*) = \frac{c}{c+2} \implies \mu(\wedge^q K^*) = \frac{qc}{c+2}$$

so that  $(\wedge^q K^*)_{\text{norm}} = \wedge^q K^*(k)$  for some  $k \leq -1$ , and if  $H^0(\wedge^q K^*(-1)) = 0$ , then  $H^0((\wedge^q K^*)_{\text{norm}}) = 0$ .

The vanishing of  $h^0(K^*(-1))$  (i.e  $q = 1$ ) is obvious from the dual to sequence (11). For the case  $q = 2$ , start from the dual to (11) and consider the associated sequence

$$0 \rightarrow S^2(\mathcal{O}_X(-1)^{\oplus c}) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X(-1)^{\oplus c} \otimes \mathcal{O}_X^{\oplus 2c+2} \rightarrow \wedge^2(\mathcal{O}_X^{\oplus 2c+2}) \rightarrow \wedge^2 K^* \rightarrow 0 .$$

Twist it by  $\mathcal{O}_X(-1)$  and break it into two short exact sequences:

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X(-3)^{\oplus \binom{c+1}{2}} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X(-2)^{\oplus 2c^2+2c} \rightarrow Q \rightarrow 0$$

$$0 \rightarrow Q \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X(-1)^{\oplus \binom{2c+2}{2}} \rightarrow \wedge^2 K^*(-1) \rightarrow 0$$

Passing to cohomology, we get  $H^0(\wedge^2 K^*(-1)) = H^1(Q) = 0$ .

Now set  $q = 3 + t$  for  $t = 0, 1, \dots, c - 2$  and note that

$$\mu(\wedge^{3+t} K^*(-t-1)) = \frac{(3+t)c}{c+2} - t - 1 = 2\frac{c-t-1}{c+2} > 0 .$$

Thus  $(\wedge^{3+t} K^*)_{\text{norm}} = \wedge^{3+t} K^*(k)$  for some  $k \leq -t-2$ , and if  $H^0(\wedge^{3+t} K^*(-t-2)) = 0$ , then  $H^0((\wedge^{3+t} K^*)_{\text{norm}}) = 0$ .

We show that  $H^0(\wedge^{3+t} K^*(-t-2)) = 0$  by induction on  $t$ . From the dual to sequence (12) we get, after twisting by  $\mathcal{O}_X(-2)$ :

$$0 \rightarrow \wedge^3 K^*(-2) \rightarrow \wedge^2 K^*(-1)^{\oplus c} \rightarrow \dots$$

since  $\wedge^3 E^* = 0$  because  $E$  has rank 2. Passing to cohomology, we get that  $H^0(\wedge^3 K^*(-2)) = 0$ , since, as we have seen above,  $H^0(\wedge^2 K^*(-1)) = 0$ . This proves the statement for  $t = 0$ .

By the same token, we get from the dual to sequence (12) after twisting by  $\mathcal{O}_X(-2-t)$ :

$$0 \rightarrow \wedge^{3+t} K^*(-2-t) \rightarrow \wedge^{2+t} K^*(-t-1)^{\oplus c} \rightarrow \dots .$$

Passing to cohomology, we get

$$H^0(\wedge^{2+t} K^*(-t-1)) = 0 \Rightarrow H^0(\wedge^{3+t} K^*(-t-2)) = 0$$

which is the induction step we needed.

In summary, we have shown that  $H^0((\wedge^q K^*)_{\text{norm}}) = 0$  for  $1 \leq q \leq c+1$ , thus by (4) we complete the proof of the claim.

**Claim.**  $E$  is simple, hence stable.

Tensoring by  $E$  the sequence dual to (12) we get

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(E^* \otimes E) \rightarrow H^0(K^* \otimes E) \rightarrow \dots . \quad (15)$$

Now tensoring (12) by  $K^*$  we get:

$$H^0(K^*(-1))^{\oplus c} \rightarrow H^0(K^* \otimes K) \rightarrow H^0(K^* \otimes E) \rightarrow H^1(K^*(-1))^{\oplus c} .$$

But it follows from the dual of sequence (11) twisted by  $\mathcal{O}_X(-1)$  that  $h^0(K^*(-1)) = h^1(K^*(-1)) = 0$ ; thus  $h^0(E^* \otimes E) = 1$  because  $K$  is simple. But  $E$  has rank 2, thus  $E$  is stable, as desired.

This completes the proof of the Theorem 2.  $\square$

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